We claim:

1.  A program-controlled unit, comprising:

a plurality of elements to be connected to form one or more scan chains; and

wherein, in response to a predetermined event during program execution, the program-controlled unit can change into a state in which selected ones or all of said plurality of elements are no longer able to change a state thereof.

2.  The program-controlled unit according to claim 1, wherein comprises an On-Chip Debug Support unit configured to monitor for the occurrence of the predetermined event.

3.  The program-controlled unit according to claim 1, which comprises a clock generator for supplying respective units of the program-controlled unit with clock signals, and wherein the program-controlled unit is changed to a state in which selected ones or all of said elements that can be connected to form scan chains can no longer change their state by deactivating said clock generator.

4.  The program-controlled unit according to claim 1, which comprises an interface suitable for at least one of configuring and controlling parts of the program-controlled

unit provided for identifying and/or analyzing errors that have occurred in the program-controlled unit from outside the program-controlled unit.

5. The program-controlled unit according to claim 4, wherein said interface is configured for setting the predetermined event and a reaction of the program-controlled unit to the occurrence of the predetermined event.

6. The program-controlled unit according to claim 4, wherein said interface is configured to prompt for connection of said elements to form a scan chain, and also to read from and write to the scan chain.

7. The program-controlled unit according to claim 4, wherein said interface is configured to effect a connection of said elements to form a scan chain, and also to read from and write to the scan chain.

8. In an error determination method in a program-controlled unit using scan chains, which comprises reading the scan chains after a predetermined event has occurred during execution of a program by the program-controlled unit.

9. The method according to claim 8, which comprises identifying and analyzing an error detected after the predetermined event.

10. The method according to claim 8, which further comprises, in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event, changing the program-controlled unit over to a state in which selected ones or all elements that can be connected to form scan chains can no longer change their state.

11. The method according to claim 8, which comprises reading data obtained upon reading the scan chains and comparing the data with data obtained when the scan chains in an error-free program-controlled unit are read under comparable conditions.